

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 6-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously submitted): A process for forming a tube-shaped hollow body, the process comprising:

- shaping a slab-shaped semifinished product into a closed cross-sectional profile;
- welding opposing edges of the semifinished product to produce the hollow body;
- mechanically partially expanding the hollow body thereby changing the cross-sectional area of the hollow body;
- soft annealing the hollow body after the mechanically partially expanding; and
- hydroforming the hollow body after the soft annealing.

Claim 15 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 16 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 further comprising soft annealing the hollow body before the mechanically partially expanding.

Claim 17 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 16 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing after the mechanically partially expanding are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 17 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 16 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing after the mechanically partially expanding are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 18 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 wherein when the hollow body has an initial cross-section and a cross-section after hydroforming, the mechanically partially expanding comprises expanding a portion of the hollow body in which the largest change between the initial cross section and the cross-section after hydroforming is to occur.

Claim 19 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 18 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 20 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 further comprising applying further processing to the hollow body; wherein:

when the applying comprises mechanical bending or mechanical shaping, the further processing is performed between the soft annealing and the hydroforming.

Claim 21 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 20 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.